

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated April 6, 2007, claim 8 has been canceled. Claims 1-3, 7, 9-11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20-22 and 24-27 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added. Claims 4-6, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 23 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected species.

The indication that claims 9, 12, 17, 18 and 20-27 are allowable, and that claims 2 and 3 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated. However, as claim 23 has been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected species, it is presumed that the Examiner has rejoined claim 23.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner contends that “the removable cover serves a second function which is different from the first function while maintaining the first function” is indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner contends that it is unclear how the external cover can serve a second function, which is different from the first function, while still maintaining the first function.

The rejection is moot as claim 8 has been canceled.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cavello et al. (USPN 5,769,646).

The rejection is moot as to canceled claim 8 and the rejections of claims 1, 7, 10, 11 and 14 are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner contends that electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 (as a removable cover) of Cavello et al. can be entirely detached from detached from guard pocket 34 (as a main unit), that when electrical apparatus 60 is not fitted to guard pocket 34, electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 serve the function as a cover for PCMCIA card 30 (as an attaching section). Also, when the electrical apparatus 60 is fitted to PC 10 (it is presumed that the Examiner intended fitted to guard pocket 34 of PC 10 as guard pocket 34 has already been identified as the main unit), electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 serve a second function which is different from the first function (as a cover for PCMCIA card 30), such that electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 are entirely detached from PC 10 (as the first device) at a location at which electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 serve as a cover for PCMCIA card 30 and then reattached to one of either the PC 10 (as the first device) and electrical apparatus 60 (as the second device) in a state different from a state when electrical apparatus 60 (as the second device) is not fitted to guard pocket 34 of PC 10 (as the main unit of the first device).

However, the Examiner is incorrect. Electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 are **NOT ENTIRELY** detached from PC 10 (as the first device) at a location at which electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 serve as a cover for PCMCIA card 30 since side wall 38 is *attached* to side edges 44 that are held attached to PC 10, via locking projections 46 engaging detents 42 formed

on side edges 44, at the location at which electrical guard 12 and side wall 38 serve as a cover for PCMCIA card 30.

More specifically, the design of the electrical connector guard 12 to perform what the Examiner identifies as the first and second functions is that it is *never entirely detached* from PC 10 at the location at which it serves as a cover for PCMCIA card 30. That is, electrical connector guard 12 is designed to have side wall 38 slide away from PC 10 via side edges 44 (which *are attached to side wall 38*) from the position it serves as a cover for PCMCIA card 30, but not to be detached from PC 10, as locking projections 46 will engage detents 42 formed on side edges 44 to hold it attached to PC 10 at the same location that it served as a cover for PCMCIA card 30. Since side wall 38 is attached to side edges 44, *they are a single unit* (electrical connector guard 12). Therefore, side edges 44 must also detach from PC 10 in order for electrical guard 28 to be entirely detached from the PC. Applicants submit that a person of ordinary skill in the art would properly understand that the above-described mechanism prevents the connector guard from being detached. Thus, it is improper to the Examiner to construe side wall 38 as being separate from attached side edges 44 in order to provide an interpretation of Cavello that will meet the terms of claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Cavello et al. also.

A similar limitation is present in independent claim 10; i.e., when the removable cover is to be attached in the second manner after it is attached in the first manner, *the removable cover is entirely detached from the image forming device and then reattached to the image forming device in the second manner*. Thus, independent claim 10 is patentable over Cavello et al.

In view of the above, the allowance of claims independent claims 1 and 10, as well as of dependent claims 7, 11 and 14, is respectfully solicited.

REJOINDER

As claim 17 is allowable, claim 19 depends from an allowable claim. Consequently, withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to claim 19 [non-elected specie] and its allowance are respectfully solicited (see MPEP § 821.04 Rejoinder).

If independent claims 1 and 10 are allowed, claims 4-6, 12, 15 and 16 will depend from allowed claims. In such case, withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to claims 4-6, 12, 15 and 16 [non-elected species] and the allowance of these formerly non-elected species are respectfully solicited (see MPEP § 821.04 Rejoinder).

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

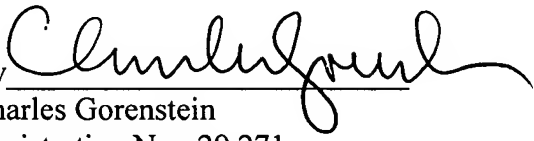
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Docket No.: 1248-0715PUS1

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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